

# AMERICAN LEGION CLINTON POST 259



## FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



## **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Dear Legion Family,

February may be the shortest month of the year, but there are many important days and celebrations packed into the 28 days (i.e., 29 days in a leap year). February boasts some popular holidays such as Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day. February also contains some key events and special observances such as the Super Bowl and Black History Month, all of which, are well celebrated. Life seems to pick up its pace during the month of February and no other month quite compares to the fast and bumpy ride that February brings.

February truly is a busy month and at times it will feel things are on a "fast pace" here at Clinton Post 259 as efforts are made to accomplish the work that lies ahead. One important event that will occur is the activation of a nominating committee that will be responsible for assembling a list of willing and qualified candidates for all elected positions. A list of these positions, as well as the duties and responsibilities for each, can be found in the Post Bylaws and Standing Rules that are posted on the Post's website at the following link: [Post 259 Information](#). If you are interested in running for an office, I encourage you to review both the bylaws and standing rules.

The First Vice Commander Helen Smith and members of her membership committee are doing an exceptional job with membership. At the Southern Maryland Region Council meeting held on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at Post 217 in College Park, MD, Clinton Post 259 was recognized and received one of the Southern Maryland Region Commander's Award for achieving 50% in membership by September 1, 2021. Currently, the Post membership numbers are closing in on meeting its membership goal and it is very possible for the Post to reach 100% by the end of February with about twenty plus renewals remaining. We are almost there! If you have not renewed your membership, help the Post "Go for the Goal" by renewing your membership. Payments can be made directly to the Post or paid online at <https://www.legion.org/renew>.

On Saturday, January 29, 2022, "Cleanup Day" was kicked off and despite adverse weather conditions on that day a lot of what was planned was accomplished with the help of Legionnaires George Woodard and Lewis Braithwaite. The next "Cleanup Day" event is going to be held on February 26, 2022, starting at 10:00 am. Let's Do It!

Finally, there are two immediate needs that I presented at the January membership meeting that must be met. There is a gap in the oversight and management of our kitchen operation to ensure compliance with all food, safety, and cleaning standards; therefore, I am first seeking a volunteer from the Post Family (i.e., Legion, SAL, Auxiliary) to serve as "Kitchen Manager" with later plans of establishing a Kitchen Committee. In addition, there are some small basic repairs that pop up every now and then that can be fixed without having to contract out the service. We are also looking for a volunteer from the Post Family to serve as the Post's "Handyman." If you are good with tools and have repair skills, consider using your toolbox to help with various odd jobs around your Post home.

Yours in Legion Service,  
Willie E. Evans  
Commander

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2021 – 2022

Commander	Willie E. Evans
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Helen Smith
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Eugene Murray
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	George Martin
Adjutant	Glenda Sturdivant
Judge Advocate	Anthony Hinnant
Service Officer	James Woodland
Finance Officer	Vacant
Assistant Finance Officer	Dustin Smith
Historian	Linda Poulson
Chaplain	Charles Johnson
Sergeant at Arms	Kenneth Weathers
<b>Executive Committee Members-At-Large</b>  Ray Carmichael  Ronald Dickens  Walter Harvey  Barbara Smith	



### **Auxiliary Officers**

### **Legion Rider Officers**

### **S.A.L. Officers**

President: Freida Skaggs

Director: Darryl Fielder

Commander: Dave Desmarais

Vice President: Marilyn Thomas

Asst. Director: Murray Hall

1<sup>st</sup> Vice: Michael Thomas

Secretary: Parnice Green

Secretary:

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice: Kenny Hendrix

Treasurer: Michele Davis

Treasurer:

Finance Officer: Dave Desmarais

Historian: Lisa Cephas

Chaplain:

Sgt At Arms: Lou Montgomery

Chaplain: Shay Brown

Adjutant: David C. Hutchinson

Sergeant At Arms: Marie Vanness

Historian: David C. Hutchinson

Executive Advisory Board:  
Cheryl Batie  
Donna Queen  
Pam Streeter

Chaplain: Gary "GJ" Shafer  
  
Advisor: Eugene Murray

## Message from First Vice Commander Helen Smith

I am so proud we have reached 93.52% of our goal for recruiting and retention. Can you believe we are only 54 members short of reaching 100% of the 834-membership goal that has been set for Clinton Post 259? As we continue to meet the challenges ahead, the committee will continue to reach out to check on members that have not renewed. Congratulations to all members that have played an integral part in our recruitment program.

This reporting period we have 15 members joining our Post. Six new members, three transfers and six Active-Duty members:

### **New Members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Service Era</b>
Lucius R. Adams	Army	Lebanon/Grenada
William E. Brooks, Jr.	Army	Lebanon/Grenada
Darryl M. Pegram	Air Force	Lebanon/Grenada
Ernest E. Solomon	Army	Panama
Harold Veney	Army	Vietnam
Kyle O. Wilson	Air Force	Lebanon/Grenada

### **Transfers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Service Era</b>
David Gee	Marine	Vietnam
Craig E. Magee	Air Force	Persian Gulf
Archie Ragland	Navy	Lebanon/Grenada

### **Active Duty**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Service Era</b>
Avery D. Hardge	Air Force	Persian Gulf
Elijah Lamar	Air Force	Persian Gulf
Ezekiel Nolan, Jr.	Air Force	Persian Gulf
Angela Robinson	Air Force	Persian Gulf
Tierra L. Washington	Air Force	Persian Gulf
Erik B. Young	Air Force	Persian Gulf

I am also proud to announce that five of our members have qualified to receive the Department and National Incentive Award for recruiting at least three new members. Some of these awards were presented at our General Membership Meeting that was held on January 25, 2022. Once verification is made, they will receive the Department Commander Challenge Coin and the National Commanders Pin. They are:

Roy Brown

Ron Dickens

Arnold Graham

David Privott

Helen Smith

## Message from Adjutant Glenda Sturdivant

The American Legion Clinton Post 259 is pleased to announce its 2022 Scholarship Program. This year, Clinton Post 259 intends to award up to three \$1,000.00 scholarships totaling \$3,000.00 to graduating high school seniors that fall in the following two categories:

- Category 1: A graduating high school senior from Surratsville High School.
- Category 2: A graduating high school senior who is a descendant (child, grandchild, great grandchild) of a paid member of Clinton Post 259.

**Eligibility Requirements.** To be considered for a scholarship award, the applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be an American citizen or a legal resident.
2. Be a graduating high school senior from Surratsville High School or a graduating high school senior who is a descendant of an active or deceased member of Clinton Post 259.
3. Have an overall grade point average of 2.50.

**Scholarship Application Procedure.** The application package must contain the following:

1. Completed and signed scholarship application form.
2. One-page letter stating the applicant's goals for furthering their education.
3. A listing of extracurricular activities, community service activities, academic honors, and positions of leadership held.
4. A minimum of two letters of references with one from a school official.
5. An official high school transcript.

**Due Date and Mailing Address.** Scholarship packages can be picked up at the Post or by emailing me and I can send the package electronically. The deadline date for receipt of all application packages is **April 15, 2022**. The completed application package must be mailed to the following address:

American Legion Clinton Post 259  
Attn: Glenda M. Sturdivant, Scholarship Program Chair  
P. O. Box 44  
Clinton, MD 20735

Questions can be directed to the scholarship program chair, Mrs. Glenda M. Sturdivant, at (202) 297-5943 or [glendabrown403@gmail.com](mailto:glendabrown403@gmail.com).

## VA to Overhaul Disability Evaluations for Mental Health, Other Conditions

Excerpted from Military.com article dated 15 Feb 2022. To see the entire article, follow this link:

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/02/15/va-overhaul-disability-evaluations-mental-health-other-conditions.html?ESRC=eb\\_220216.nl](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/02/15/va-overhaul-disability-evaluations-mental-health-other-conditions.html?ESRC=eb_220216.nl)

The Department of Veterans Affairs will change its disability ratings criteria for mental health conditions, sleep apnea and tinnitus, part of a major overhaul of the review process to ensure that compensation matches veterans' medical conditions and needs, department officials say. The VA plans to update its Schedule for Rating Disabilities -- its guide for determining how it evaluates and provides benefits for service-connected disabilities -- for mental health conditions, to include their impact on veterans' lives, and abolish the "0%" disability rating for any service-connected mental health diagnosis in favor of a 10% minimum, according to a notice published Tuesday in the Federal Register.

For tinnitus, the department will get rid of its stand-alone rating and consider the condition a symptom of whatever underlying disease is its cause. As for sleep apnea, ratings will be assessed based on the effectiveness of treatment and the condition's impact on "earning impairment," according to the notice. Previously, most conditions were assessed on the number and severity of symptoms, but VA officials said the consideration of lost wages or productivity is needed.

Officials say the changes, which would go into effect after a period for the public to comment and a final version is published, likely will result in higher disability ratings for veterans with mental health conditions, but fewer qualifying for disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea. Veterans already receiving disability for these conditions will not see their ratings downgraded by any changes, officials said.

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### **CLINTON POST 259 PRAYER REQUESTS**

\*Prayers and Condolences go out to **3rd Vice Commander George Martin** on the recent loss of his son Elgin Martin who was 42 years of age at the time of his passing.

\*Prayers go out to **Chaplain Charles Johnson** for a successful surgery that's pending.

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

"Top-down incompetence": Investigating military vehicle training deaths (60 Minutes) – YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RLZopt6iA>

**Fix Walter Reed Barracks Now!** [https://www.legion.org/commander/254855/american-legion-navy-%E2%80%98fix-walter-reed-barracksnow%E2%80%99C2%A0?utm\\_source=Adestra&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=COMMANDER&utm\\_campaign=Source+Code+Here&utm\\_term=newsletter](https://www.legion.org/commander/254855/american-legion-navy-%E2%80%98fix-walter-reed-barracksnow%E2%80%99C2%A0?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_content=COMMANDER&utm_campaign=Source+Code+Here&utm_term=newsletter)

**Let's honor unsung Black veterans** | The American Legion  
<https://www.legion.org/commander/254808/let%E2%80%99s-honor-unsung-black-veterans>



## Message from Auxiliary President Frieda Skaggs

### **AUXILIARY OFFICERS NOMINATIONS**

At the Auxiliary's scheduled meeting on February 14, 2022, members began the 2022 nomination process for new officers by selecting a panel of three members to serve as the nomination committee. All positions are open which are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chaplain, Secretary, Historian, and three Executive committee persons. Any member is eligible and encouraged to indicate their interest to be placed on a slate of officers that will be presented at the April 11, 2022, Auxiliary meeting. The members are Parnice Green, chairperson, Barbara Smith, and Joyce Maroney. Please indicate your interest by either advising any of the three members or sending an email to the Chairperson, Parnice Green, at [greenparnice@hotmail.com](mailto:greenparnice@hotmail.com) indicating the position you are interested in. Nominations will remain open until the start of the Annual Election of Officers at the May Auxiliary meeting.

### **AUXILIARY'S PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST IS BACK**

It has been some time since the Auxiliary presented a Palm Sunday breakfast to the community, but at the February 14, 2022, meeting, the vote was unanimous. Members also selected a committee that will be planning the details. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date and a flyer will be produced and placed under the glass of the tables in the canteen and, time permitting, the April post newsletter. So please plan to come out to support your Auxiliary on April 10, 2022 and enjoy some good food and camaraderie.

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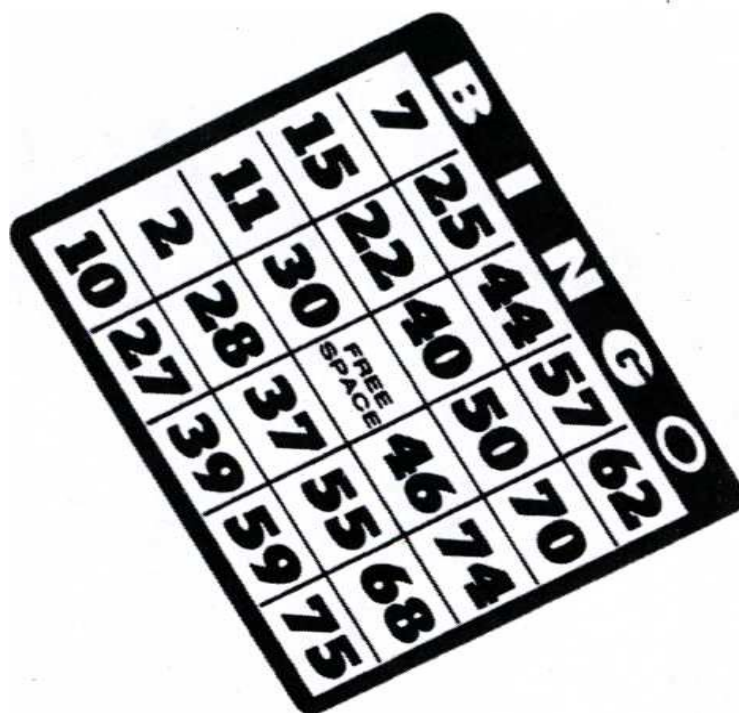
### **Southern Maryland Region Commander's Award**



Commander Willie Evans and First Vice Commander Helen Smith receives award from Southern Maryland Region Commander John R. Countryman, Jr. (far right) at the region council meeting held on February 13, 2022, at John B. Later Post 217 in College Park, MD for achieving 50% of its membership goal by September 1, 2022. Also included is Southern Maryland Region First Vice Commander Stanley Shaw (far left).



**BINGO IS BACK! AT CLINTON POST 259! HELP WANTED!**



**Prince Georges Community - COME OUT AND PLAY**

**FIRST & THIRD FRIDAYS BEGINNING @ 7:30 – 9122 Piscataway Road**

**POST MEMBERS - VOLUNTEER**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**BINGO CHAIR TONYA FORD@ (301) 661-6149**



## **“Shrimp Night”**

Every Wednesday from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Come out and place your order!

### Menu

Shrimp

Hush Puppies

French Fries



## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Super Bowl – 13 February 2022</b>
<b>Southern Maryland Region Council Meeting – 13 February 2022 – College Park Post 217 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting – 20 February 2022 – Greenbelt Post 136 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 28 February 2022 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>American Legion Birthday – 15 March 2022</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 28 March 2022 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>District Six Council Meeting – 24 April 2022 – Clinton Post 259 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 25 April 2022 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>Southern Maryland Region Council Meeting – 01 May 2022 – Severn Post 175 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting – 15 May 2022 – Dewey Loman Post 109 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 23 May 2022 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>Memorial Day – 30 May 2022</b>
<b>District Six Council Meeting – 12 June 2022 – Randolph Furey Post 170 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Flag Day – 14 June 2022</b>
<b>Southern Maryland Region Council Meeting – 26 June 2022 – Cheverly Post 108 (1:00 pm)</b>
<b>Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 27 June 2022 (7:30 pm)</b>
<b>Department Convention – (13 - 15 July 2022) – Ocean City, MD</b>

# February 2022

## Calendar of Post Meetings and Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Shrimp Night	3 Thursday Night Food Special	4 Bingo Night	5
6	7	8	9 Shrimp Night	10	11	12
13 Super Bowl	14 Valentine's Day Auxiliary Meeting	15	16 Shrimp Night	17 Thursday Night Food Special	18 Bingo Night	19
20	21 President's Day Exec Committee Meeting	22 Legion Riders Meeting (6:00pm)	23 Shrimp Night	24	25	26
27	28 General Membership Meeting (7:30pm)					

# SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

LOS ANGELES RAMS



CINCINNATI BENGALS



SUPER BOWL LVI



THE PARTY LOCATION – CLINTON POST 259





Clinton Post 259 welcomed the Super Bowl party once again – an arrival going forward due to the cancelation last year because of the Covid pandemic. The pandemic is still in effect, however; but now careful safety measures including wearing masks and getting vaccinated has provided a return to a new normal.

The party was divided in two sections – those who paid their \$100 blocks which provided an open bar and food; the other was in the lounge – for those not part of the football pool who paid for their drinks at the bar and food.

Comments from the football fans about the two teams included –

“I’m a Redskins fan, it doesn’t matter.”

“I don’t care who wins, if it hits my pool play, I’ll be happy. My dad’s family is from Ohio, I’m going with Cincinnati.”

“I really don’t have a dog in this fight, I am a Pittsburgh Steelers fan, but I’m going for the underdog,” said Kisha Pown. “I’m supporting my girlfriend, I’m here to support the veterans, I’m a veteran myself.”

“Marie (Vanness) did a fantastic job getting the decorations out,” said Legionnaire and Auxiliary Chaplain Shay Brown. “We had appetizers, Italian sausage, pulled pork, and more food will be coming. There is a \$50 pool as well.”

“I’m rooting for Cincinnati,” said Frak Perez, who was sitting alone drinking a beer. “Because they are an AFC team, and they are from Ohio, that’s where I’m from. I’m from Cleveland but today I’m for the Bengals.”



Hip-hop music was the theme at the Super Bowl's halftime show. West Coast rapper/magnate Dr. Dre led the way with an entourage that included Mary J. Blige, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, and Kendrick Lamar. The physical setting was meshed in white, a long mansion with many rooms, filled with fans, musicians, and dancers. On top of this structure is where the main event was featured – except on the stadium floor where Kendrick Lamar and Dre dancers performed.

Special guest “Power” rapper Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson appeared in an upside-down position but quickly landed singing one of his hits “In Da Club.” During the show Eminem took a knee, a reminder of Colin Kaepernick's message to the NFL of the unfair treatment towards Black people.



The LA Rams defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20.





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## **Stay Safe-Stay Connected**

**The American Legion  
Clinton Post 259  
9122 Piscataway Road  
Clinton, Maryland 20735  
Phone: 301-868-2550  
Website: [www.post259.org](http://www.post259.org)**

**I welcome your news, ideas, suggestions,  
comments, or questions for future issues.**

**Forward to Editor Linda Poulson at**

**[poulin515@gmail.com](mailto:poulin515@gmail.com)**

**(subject to change)**

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